



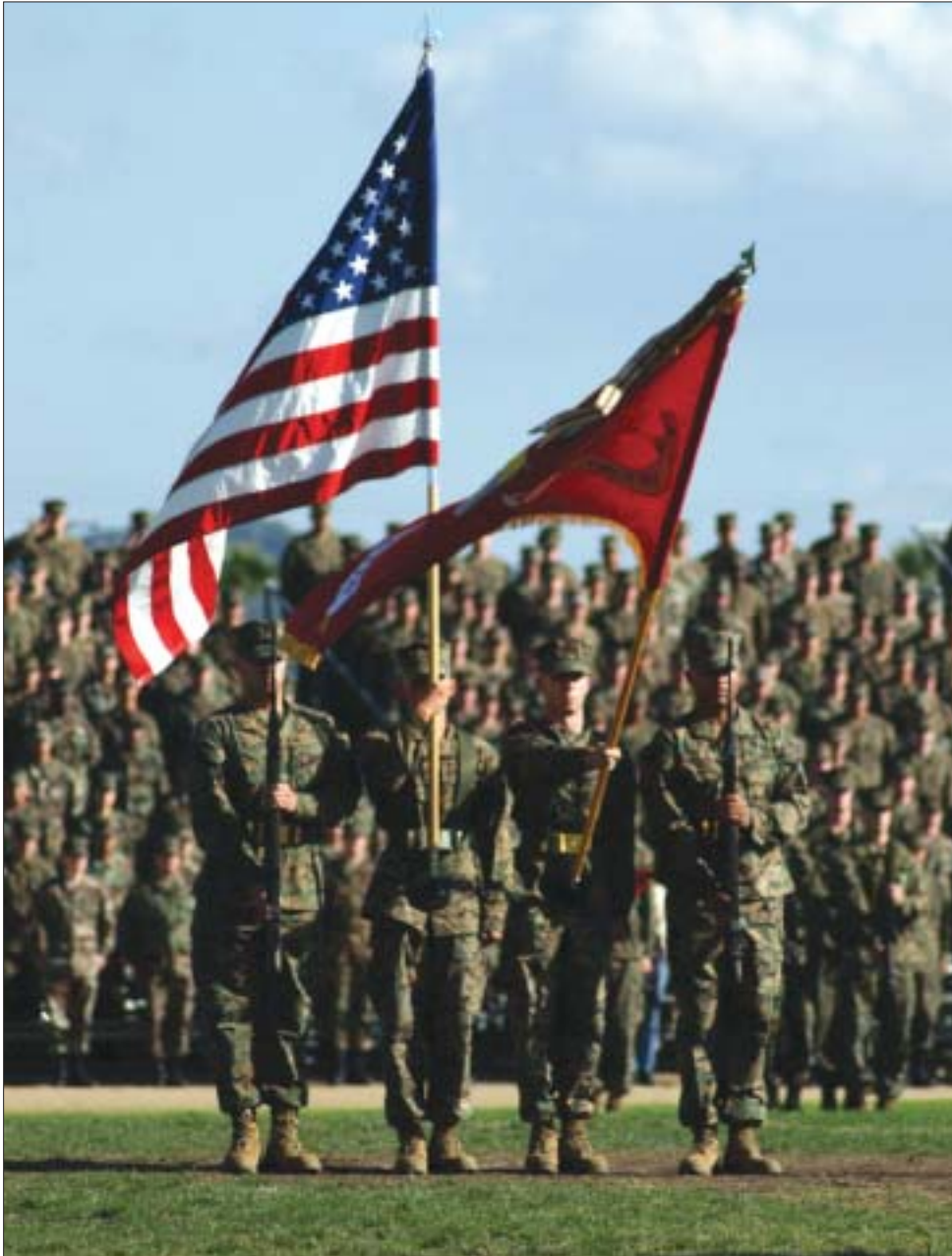
Flight Jacket

Vol. 5, No. 47

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

November 21, 2003

I MEF awarded Presidential Unit Citation



The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force color guard presents the colors during the national anthem before the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, pinned the Presidential Unit Citation onto the flag during the award ceremony. Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Honorable Mr. Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, presented the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force with the Presidential Unit Citation during a ceremony here Thursday.

The ceremony was held in front of nearly 2000 Marines and Sailors from the 1st Marine Division, 1st Force Service Support Group, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I MEF Headquarters Group and VIPs to include Gen. Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lt. Gen. James Conway, I MEF commanding general.

During the ceremony, Secretary England attached the PUC's battle streamer to I MEF's organizational colors to signify that the unit and every servicemember that deployed with I MEF rates the award.

Since the PUC has not been awarded to a Marine unit since the Vietnam War, it was a very special occasion for I MEF and their commanding general, but according to Conway, receiving ribbons is not why his Marines fight.

"Napoleon once said that 'troops will fight long and hard for a little piece of colored ribbon,' but I think Napoleon only had it half right," said Conway. "Marines fight for other reasons. They fight for each other, they fight because they are American patriots and they fight because they believe in what they are fighting for. But I will tell you that when they finish fighting they find it appropriate that, that bright piece of ribbon makes its way to their chests."

For Secretary England honoring the I MEF with the award on behalf of the president was not as much of an honor as being in front of the Marines and Sailors who

make up the command.

"It is a very high honor and a very humbling moment for me to be here today with so many heroes and memories of heroes who did not return," he said. "The fight for freedom is the just and righteous cause of our nation. The Presidential Unit Citation is your just reward today for advancing the cause of liberty."

In addition to speaking for himself, the Secretary of the Navy also read a letter to I MEF on behalf of the president. In the letter the president told the unit, "For 228 years members of the United States Marine Corps have sacrificed in the defense of freedom. In Iraq you continued the tradition by demonstrating courage in the face of danger.

"Your heroic actions freed millions from tyranny and furthered the cause of liberty. Our nation is grateful for your service, and I salute the members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and join your family and friends in congratulating you on this achievement."



Gen. Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Hon. Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, and Lt. Gen. James Conway, stand at the position of attention, waiting to present the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force with the Presidential Unit Citation. Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.

Team Miramar raises \$150,000+ for CFC

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

Last year the Combined Federal Campaign at Miramar (including 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing) raised over \$280,000 and made a significant difference in the lives of many people.

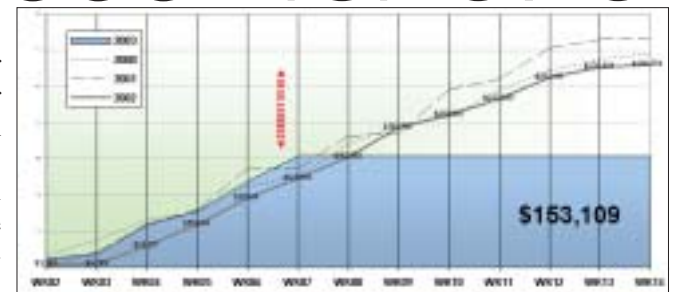
Halfway through the 14 week campaign, the Miramar Campaign has raised \$153,109. This has put Miramar \$30,469 ahead of this same period last year. The key to Miramar's early success has been the outstanding efforts of many of the unit coordinators who have worked extremely

hard on their campaigns.

Miramar has five activities that have completed their campaigns and though there are no monetary goals, their efforts have been proven by the increases over last year in total dollars and participation rate.

The greatest factor in CFC's success is the individual unit's commanding officer expressing their support and the subordinate leader's endorsement. There are many contributors who are willing to help, but need to be contacted.

Miramar CFC has accomplished a great deal already, but there is more work that can be done.



The Miramar Combined Federal Campaign has raised more than \$150,000 through week 7.

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



65° / 47°
Today



62° / 44°
Saturday



62° / 43°
Sunday

Paintball
a hit with
Marines



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Medal of
Honor hero
passes away



Page 8

Miramar Mail



Why is Miramar the only base in the Southern California area still checking IDs?

Cpl. Michael A. MacChesney, plans NCO, MAG-16

In addition, various bases are interpreting Anti-terrorism Force Protection measures and restrictions in the broadest sense possible in order to operate under their own station order. The station ATFP plan sets out measures to be followed and guidelines according to each force protection condition level. For Miramar, this is Station Order P3302.1. We are in force protection condition "Al-

Department of Defense order requires all uniformed personnel to have their military identification on their person at all times. In

pha," and follow measure number 33 in Miramar's ATFP plan, which states, "entry control will be strictly enforced and a percentage of vehicles will be searched." The way in which the station interprets "strictly enforcing entry" is to check identification. Each measure aids in the Station's security posture. Checking identification leads to the discovery of illegal aliens, individuals with warrants or base debarments.



Brig. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

Editor's note:
E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at:
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil
Please include
"Question to the General"
in the subject line.



In the snow of far-off northern lands:

Marines at Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir in 1950

Department of Defense

50th Anniversary of the Korean War

In late October, the 1st Marine Division landed at Wonsan and spread out to secure the approaches to the port city. The division was then ordered to advance northwest of Hungnam along a mountain road to the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir, the site of an important hydroelectric plant. The Marines would then advance to the Yalu River — the border between North Korea and the People's Republic of China.

Despite intelligence in early November that Chinese communist forces had massed on the Korean side of the Yalu, 1st MarDiv was ordered to continue northwest from Hungnam to the Chosin Reservoir. The brief autumn weather was almost over, and temperatures were turning bitterly cold.

On Nov. 27, elements of the Chinese Communist People's Liberation Army struck Marine positions in force. In a well-planned counterstroke, eight Chinese divisions charged down from surrounding mountains with the sole mission of destroying the 1st MarDiv.

Over the next four weeks, the Chinese and the Marines engaged in some of the fiercest fighting of the Korean War. In an epic movement, 1st MarDiv completed a successful fighting withdrawal through 78 miles of mountain road in Northeast Korea that ended in mid-December with the amphibious evacuation of the Marines from Hungnam, Korea. Although suffering more than 4,000 battle casualties and uncounted incidents of frostbite, Marine Corps air and ground units killed nearly 25,000 Chinese communist troops.



U.S. Marines move forward as close air support clears an area ahead during fighting near the 'Frozen Chosin' Reservoir in early December, 1950. The Marines of the 1st Marine Division fought through 78 miles of cold, mountainous terrain during the engagement with Chinese communist forces in Korea. Official USMC photo.

NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

Gen. Michael W. Hagee

Commandant of the Marine Corps

The armed services YMCA has designated the month of November as military family month. This annual observance provides an opportunity to pay tribute to our nation's military families. The United States Marine Corps supports this effort by recognizing the vital contributions of our Marine families. In peacetime and wartime, Marine families have steadfastly supported their Marines. Their unselfish contributions to the Marine Corps community enable our Marines to focus on their mission. Our Marine family members face many challenges: long deployments, family separations and frequent relocations. The resilience that they display in managing these challenges is an inspiration to us all, and exemplifies our motto, *semper fidelis*.



It is with great enthusiasm that we celebrate National Military Family Month. I extend my personal thanks to each Marine Corps family member. I encourage commands to recognize and celebrate the support of Marine families by planning special events and appropriate activities.

Semper Fidelis.

Flight Jacket

**Brig. Gen.
Jon A. Gallinetti**

*Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area
Commanding General
MCAS Miramar*

**Maj. Gen.
James F. Amos**

*Commanding General
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Germans, Marines face-off during fighter pilot test

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. – With more than a half-century of peace with Germany, German F-4 Phantom pilots and students from the 20th Fighter Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., landed here for their final phase of air-to-air training.

The Germans, along with U.S. Air Force personnel, landed here Nov. 5 ready to fly against the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

“This is very unique training that we get with the Americans and the F/A-18,” said German air force Capt. Martin Brendjes, F-4 Phantom instructor. “We normally train F-4 on F-4 with air-to-air tactics, now we get this opportunity.”

Maj. Flay R. Goodwin, VMFA-134 operations officer and 36-year-old Connellsville, Penn., native, had nothing but positive things to say about the training and pilots.

“They came out here to train their students,” said Goodwin. “At the end of their training syllabus, they are sent to an unfamiliar air base to train in an unfamiliar area against unfamiliar aircraft. Now they have the chance to come out and execute what they learned.”

For Lt. Maik Dietz, a 22-year-old Zwickau, Germany native and fighter pilot student with the 20th Fighter Squadron, this is a new experience.

“It’s pretty cool,” he said. “It’s our final phase of train-

ing in America. We do not want to leave.”

The F-4 Phantom has been around for more than 40 years and the Germans still use it.

“The Phantom is a great plane, there really is no way to describe it,” said Brendjes.

Many of the younger pilots are looking to the future when they will have the opportunity to fly a newer fighter jet.

“I am looking forward to flying the Eurofighter,” said Lt. Mathias Rosenberg, a 24-year-old student and Berlin native. “It is a good fighter and I cannot wait until it is in use.”

This is one of the few remaining training opportunities in the U.S. for the German air force because they will be moving their training program to Germany in the next few years.

“In Holloman, we have the German Tornados and the F-4 Phantom, and we train and fight with them,” said Brendjes. “But we are going to be moving the training program to Hopsten Rhein, Germany in the next couple of years.”

This exercise is not the first time Brendjes has been to the U.S. to train.

“I have been in Holloman training for more than two years and will be moving to Germany in the next six months,” said Brendjes. “We trained the last F-4 instructor in August, so I will be leaving soon.”

According to Col. John P. Crook, commanding officer VMFA-134, training was made possible because of another



German pilots and Miramar Marines train with the F-4 Phantom during the Air Force 20th Fighter Squadron's visit here Nov. 14. *Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III.*

unit 134 has trained with in the past.

“The Tuscon, Ariz. National Guard referred the 20th (Fighter Squadron) to us,” he said. “They know we are a reserve squadron and do a lot of training.”

According to Crook, the experience benefits more than just training.

“I think the whole thing is great,” said Cook. “We (further) develop a great relationship with one of our best allies.

“I couldn’t be any happier,” he added. “Who knows, we could be serving in a joint operation with these guys and recognize one of their faces.”

Local residents give thanks to Miramar firefighters

Story by Sgt. J. L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. – Nearly one month after the devastation of the firestorms that ripped through San Diego County, local residents of Scripps Ranch came to thank the Miramar Fire Department firefighters Sunday.

More than 20 residents brought food and thank-you cards to the crew that saved their homes as one way of expressing their appreciation for a job well done.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to the firefighters of Miramar and to all the firefighters across the nation,” said Fred Colby, a 55-year-old Scripps Ranch resident. “After the fires, we returned to our homes and were able to track down the engine company that helped save our homes.”

Larry Kern, assistant fire chief, MCAS Miramar Fire Department, and Elmhurst, Ill., native, gave some of the credit to the residents for saving their own homes.

“Believe it or not, they helped us do our job,” he said. “Some of the residents had garden hoses and ladders outside and all of that helped us.”

Kern, a 46-year San Diego resident and 25-year veteran of military service, was thankful that his job received recognition

“It is always nice to see a little gratitude from those we are here to serve,” said Kern. “In our line of business, we usually show up at a bad situation, try our best to mitigate a problem, give aid, comfort or support to people who have lost belongings or have

been hurt.

“After a short encounter during stressful, trying and emotional times, we return to our stations and usually never hear from or about (the victims) again,” he said. “These types of people that go out of their way to say ‘thank-you’ are the exception, not the rule.”

Capt. Larry Cate, fire captain, MCAS Miramar Fire Department, felt all of this was just part of their job.

“This is what we train to do,” he said.

Although some of the houses in the San Diego area were destroyed, those whose homes were spared felt several emotions after returning.

Janet McAfee, a 20-year-resident of Scripps Ranch could not believe what she saw when she returned to her home.

“When we drove up to the house we were relieved that it was there,” she said. “But when we walked to the back of our property, we saw that our neighbors’ houses had burned down.

“We were horrified to see their house down, then instantly grateful our home was saved,” she continued. “We were amazed and could not understand why or what saved our house.”

The residents did not know who was responsible for the actions that saved their homes until nearly a week later.

“It was not until the following Sunday that Capt. Danny Rivas showed up and stopped to see the results of their work,” said McAfee. “When he arrived, he told us the story.”

Cate added that the firemen are usually thanked for all the work they do, but this situ-

ation was different.

“I felt that the residents from Scripps Ranch needed to come and thank us to help them in their recovery from the devastating fire,” he said. “It was really more of a psychological thing for them.”

Kern added that this is all part of their job, but the efforts of the citizens is greatly appreciated.

“The memory of their efforts towards us, and I’m sure their memory of our efforts on their behalf, will last a lifetime.”

Miramar recycles

For more information, call Station Recycling at
577-6366.

San Diego thanks Miramar's finest



San Diegans reach out to thank Miramar Marines at Qualcomm Stadium Sunday for risking their lives to help put out the recent fires in the San Diego community. *Photo by Sgt. Richard J. Kulleck.*

Story by Sgt. Richard J. Kulleck

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

QUALCOMM STADIUM, SAN DIEGO - The chill of a light breeze could be felt through the air, but that didn't stop the San Diego community from showing their appreciation for a 'job well done' to some of Southern California's finest.

The "San Diego Gives Thanks!" celebration recognized more than 500 firefighters and law enforcement officers, including the MCAS Miramar Fire Department and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting/Recovery. The event was held here, Nov. 16 to pay tribute for those who risk their lives to save homes and families during the three-weeks that fires consumed San Diego communities.

"I am glad to see such a great turnout for this event, seeing the people come out makes us feel appreciated," said Lance Cpl. Tyler Hornback, aircraft fire fighting and rescue specialist.

Along with two P-19 Alpha fire fighting trucks from Miramar, other static displays of local California Department of Forestry fire trucks and law enforcement vehicles were scattered throughout the parking lot and ground floor concession stand area.

More than 1,000 children and adults had the opportunity to climb on the trucks and interact with the different agencies, listen to stories and learn about the abilities of each department.

"As a result of the P-19 Alpha's capabilities with the

bumper and roof turret, Rescue 50 and 41 were able to do an excellent job of fighting the fires on Pomerado Road, the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center and Interstate 15," explained Sgt. Mohamad Akhtar, aircraft rescue firefighter and recovery specialist. "We helped keep the embers away from the roofs and extinguished the trees and brush along the road. As a result we were able to save a lot of homes that sit right on that main street."

The guests of honor were paraded down the football field giving people the opportunity to shake hands and give a verbal 'thank-you' as they passed by.

'I am glad to see such a great turnout for this event, seeing the people come out makes us feel appreciated.'

Lance Cpl. Tyler Hornback

San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy also paid tribute and announced an assortment of guest speakers, such as San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne, San Diego Fire Chief Jeff Bowman and California Department of Forestry Division Chief Bill

Clayton.

The thanks could be seen throughout the crowd with hand-written signs and T-shirts with messages of appreciation.

Qualcomm staff showed their appreciation by playing live music on the Jumbo tron and providing a fireworks display.

During the ceremony the mayor also asked for a moment of silence to honor those who perished during the fires.

As the ceremony ended, the song, "God Bless the USA" could be heard as firefighters and law enforcement officers merged back with their family members and local neighbors becoming a part of the community again.

SMP sends servicemembers 'Home for the Holidays'

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - One of the most difficult things about being in the military is being away from family and friends, especially during the holidays, and that is why the Miramar Single Marine Program came up with the Home for the Holidays program 17 years ago.

Home for the Holidays is a service that the SMP offers free of charge to match servicemembers with host families who are willing to take them in for a day and feed them a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

According to D.J. McCluskey, SMP social recreation director, Home for the Holidays is not only a great way for all servicemembers to meet someone for the day, but also to make a lasting friendship.

"One family a few years back basically

adopted the Marine they had during Home for the Holidays," she said. "They would have him come over all the time, take him out on the weekends, and now that he is in Japan they still keep in contact through e-mail."

Although not every visit will develop into a lasting friendship, McCluskey explained that the SMP tries to match the host families with the servicemembers by screening both parties before they meet.

"We try to make the best possible match-up between the host family and the servicemember, because we don't want the servicemember to feel uncomfortable or out of place," she said. "Obviously we would not send someone who is allergic to cats to a house that has them, or we wouldn't send someone to a smoking house who is bothered by smoking."

The SMP also tries to match the servicemembers and families by hobbies, or

religion if preferred.

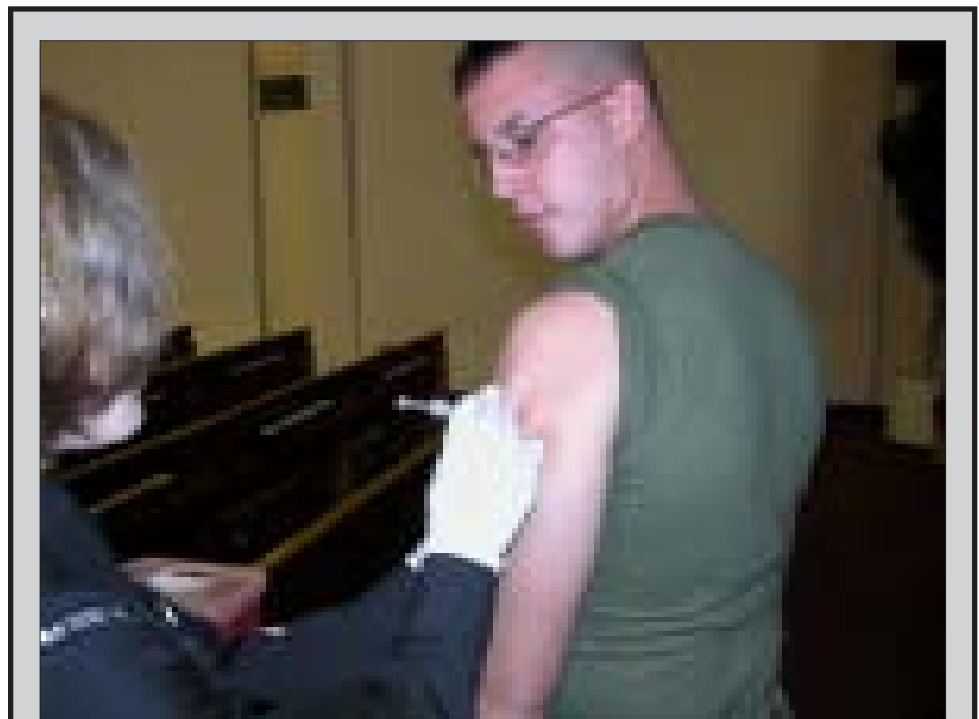
"Some servicemembers come in and request to go to a quiet house where they can have a nice traditional Thanksgiving dinner, but on the other hand we have one family who wants to have as many Marines as possible over for a video game tournament," said McCluskey.

Although the SMP is no longer accepting host family applications, they are in need of more servicemembers to send out to the homes. Alisa Hertzler, SMP coordinator, said

that a lot servicemembers might not sign up because they do not fully understand the program.

"You can't fully understand or appreciate this program unless you actually go out and do this," she said. "What the servicemembers need to understand is that the families really do want them there, and it really means a lot to them to be able to give something back to the military."

For more information, call the Single Marine Program at 577-6171.



Ouch! Marines get stuck

Pfc. Eric Greenlee, finance clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, receives the flu shot at the Airman Memorial Chapel here, Nov. 12. The 24-year-old Bloomington, Ill., native was one of many personnel here to receive the shot. More than 8,000 flu shots will be administered this season by the corpsmen from the Miramar Branch Medical Clinic. *Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III.*

Marines remember a fallen president

Commentary by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Conspiracy theories aside, the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy 40 years ago Saturday wounded our national spirit. The crack of an assassin's rifle in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, forever changed our country and the way we view our government.

Like our own times in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the early 1960s was a time of uncertain mood for the country with the Cuban Missile Crisis, the exploration of space and the growing tensions in Southeast Asia largely defining the Kennedy administration.

Believing our nation was in the midst of "extraordinary times" in his 1962 State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress, President Kennedy mentioned a 15 percent increase in the military budget under his tenure – to ensure America's strength and for the preservation of peace.

And he wanted more Marines.

During such times it is natural for Americans to reflect on events as significant as the death of a president and for one reason or another, anniversaries with a "0" seem more poignant. But Saturday also serves as an opportunity for the Marine Corps to look back on its own relationship with JFK.

For the Marine Corps, JFK's assassination was a time of particular sadness and confusion made more so with the knowledge that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former Marine, was the accused killer. According to retired Col. John G. Miller, assistant operations officer at 8th and I from 1961 to 1964, Mrs. Kennedy recalled on the final day before her husband's funeral that JFK "always had a special fondness for his Marines" during his presidency.

In his book "Semper Fidelis: the History of the Marine Corps," historian and Marine Allan R. Millet notes that with the election of JFK in 1960 a new future for the Marine Corps was on the horizon. The Marines' combat-proven, anti-guerilla, counter-insurgency, traditions seemed to be very compatible with the Kennedy administration's "Flexible Response" strategy and proved to be a potent force-in-readiness when non-nuclear, military options were needed for limited conflicts. Ready to take on the Cold War communist threat with a renewed aggression, the capabilities of the Marine Corps were admired by the new administration.

Millet notes that within six months of coming into office, the Kennedy administration sought to increase the size of the Marine Corps to more than 190,000 with a budget increase of \$67 million. By the early 1960s, the Marine Corps was in the midst of a transformation into a quick-reaction force-in-readiness having the goal of sustaining combat on land for months at a time.

With White House support and congressional funding the doctrinal change, Headquarters Marine Corps formally developed the Marine Air Ground Task Force doctrine the Corps has come to perfect. President Kennedy's foreign policy objectives also presented the Corps with the opportunity to demonstrate its continued combat relevance, projecting and sustaining American military power from the sea on several occasions in the

early 1960s.

With deployments and amphibious exercises meant to contain a looming communist threat in Laos and Vietnam, and much closer to America's shores with attempts to neutralize Fidel Castro in Cuba, the Marines gave the Kennedy administration the flexible response it needed in the midst of a hot Cold War.

Kennedy's relationship with the Marines was also a personal one.

Following the successful orbital flight of an American around the earth, Kennedy visited Cape Canaveral with Mercury astronaut and then Col. John R. Glenn Jr. who piloted the spacecraft Friendship 7 in orbit around the earth, becoming a national hero.

Recalled by Glenn in an interview in 1964, when the president exited Air Force One at the Cape a band began playing the "Marines Hymn" after "Hail to the Chief"

See JFK, page 11



President John F. Kennedy inspects Marines, Sailors and recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 6, 1963. *Official USMC photo.*

Paintball Persecution tests the best in the West



Sgt. C. Nuntavong from Team Miramar Combat Correspondents, peeks around a corner of a bunker during a regulation game in the Paintball Persecution tournament held at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Paintball Park Saturday. Team MCC was one of 19 teams in the tournament, and they managed to take home third place despite having rental guns and lacking the experience that a lot of the other teams in the tournament had. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht.*

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Hundreds of servicemembers from Marine bases all over California gathered at the paintball fields here Saturday to see who was the best in the West in military paintball.

The event, aptly name Paintball Persecution, was a five-on-five, capture the flag tournament, in which 19 teams battled it out for more than seven hours on three different courses.

However, before the games even began, tension started to grow as players started revealing their equipment, some of which cost more than \$1,000 per gun.

“Some of these guys out here have suitcases full of equipment, which makes me wonder if I even have a chance,” said Cpl. Jan Bender, a combat correspondent with Camp Pendleton’s KPEN news program. “It doesn’t really matter though because whether you win or lose it is still going to be good training and a lot of fun.”

As the games began, the competition level started to rise as teams battled to move to the top of their division for a shot at the finals. To compete in the tournament finals, a team must have been in first place in their division at the end of regulation play.

There was also one slot open for a wildcard team, the team with the highest amount of points after regulation play, that had not already made it into the paintball finals.

Although not every team would be able to win a trophy, for some Marines, like Lance Cpl. Robert Beard, a combat engineer with the Marine Ready Company, Combat Service Support Battalion 10 in

Camp Pendleton, the combat style training was enough to make the day worthwhile.

“It was a lot of fun out here and there was a lot of good action and good training,” he said. “I just got back from Iraq and will probably be going back soon, so this will keep me ready by practicing team movements and rushing in to take cover behind anything you can find.”

Training is just one reason why sponsors such as the Single Marine Program put on events like this, but the main reason is to just brew up some good, friendly competition.

“This is our fourth tournament, and it is the best turnout yet,” said Alisa Hertzler, Miramar SMP coordinator. “Paintball is very popular amongst Marines and I think they are really into the competitive aspect of it. Marines are always good at sports and events that are very competitive, especially when they have to work as a team.”

At the end of the day, it was evident who was able to work the best as a team as Hertzler and a representative from the Camp Pendleton Paintball Park handed out the first place trophy to Team Renegade, a walk-on civilian team, second place to Team Ghost, a group of Camp Pendleton corpsmen, and third place to Team Miramar Combat Correspondents, a group of Miramar’s own combat correspondents.

Sgt. Joshua Stueve, a first time paintball player with Team MCC, walked away from the tournament not only with a third place trophy, but also a new found appreciation for the sport.

“I think we did really well for having a team full of Marines that haven’t really played too much paintball,” he said. “It was my first time playing and I had a blast. I can’t wait to get out there and do it again.”



A Marine from Camp Pendleton’s Legal Service’s team takes cover behind one of the many obstacles on the paintball fields as paintballs land around him. Just like in real combat, cover and concealment are important factors to survive during a furious game of paintball. *Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.*



Paintball players fine tune their weapons and test to make sure they are shooting at a safe speed before Paintball Persecution begins. *Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.*



In a last attempt at charging the enemy lines, a paintballer running for cover is gunned down by the opponent while some of his fallen enemies watch from the 'Dead Box' where players go after they are shot. *Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.*



A Marine sports a new hair color after taking a shot to the head during Paintball Persecution. Although the Marine was wearing the proper mask which covers the entire face, the front of the neck and ears, a well placed shot still managed to make its way to the kill zone. *Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro.*

American hero leaves behind gallant legacy

Story by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. – A piece of history was lost recently when an American hero and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient passed away.

Retired Marine Col. Mitchell Paige died from congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, Calif., Nov. 15, but the legacy and historic eyewitness accounts he left behind of World War II's Battle of Guadalcanal will live forever. At 85, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the historic ground battle lost his personal battle with reoccurring heart problems.

Only 23 years old, Paige was a platoon sergeant in charge of 34 machine gunners waiting in a defensive position to turn back a Japanese Division. Thousands of enemy soldiers were preparing for an early morning attack in the area surrounding Paige's outnumbered platoon.

At nearly 3 a.m. on Oct. 26, 1942, the still of night was broken by the muffled sound of equipment and Japanese soldiers closing in on Paige and his men. He moved from the safety of his foxhole to warn his Marines of the enemy's approach and ordered them to hold their fire until given the signal. As the enemy soldiers reached one of his machine gun positions, Paige and his Marines pulled their grenade pins, launched them into the darkness and erupted the battlefield.

Japanese mortars, grenades and machine gun fire immediately fell upon the Marines, and the first wave of enemy troops flanked Paige's machine gun position. For more than three hours the night sky was lit by American and Japanese fire, with nearly all of Paige's men being killed or wounded. On more than one occasion Paige dodged incoming rounds to fix jammed guns or fire unmanned ones, and was wounded on several occasions while trying to help his Marines load ammunition.

The first wave of enemy attacks died down long



2nd Lt. Mitchell Paige (right) receives the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Guadalcanal from Maj. Gen. A. A. Vandergrift. Paige died Nov. 17 of congestive heart failure. Photo courtesy of the Paige family.

enough for another enemy platoon to climb the 70-foot ridge surrounding Paige's position. While looking out behind a steaming machine gun, Paige could see what should have been grass covered with morning dew was now a sea of dead bodies. From gun to gun Paige moved, searching for a living soul but finding only the dead bodies of his troops.

Dawn broke at nearly 5:30 a.m., and as the rest of the world slept, Paige picked up a machine gun, called out to any living American troops, and charged toward the sound

of Japanese soldiers. The Marines followed Paige with fixed bayonets as he sprayed the enemy with his two remaining belts of ammunition. The few brave men fought off the last of the Japanese soldiers that morning and then listened to the eerie quiet that filled the deadened battlefield.

The citation Paige received for his heroic deeds that morning spoke of the fearless determination he used while commanding his machine gun section. "When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position ... (Paige) continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire against the advancing hordes until reinforcements finally arrived."

In a message to America, Paige wrote that receiving the Medal of Honor "was a tremendous award, but it was also quite humbling. I realize that what was accomplished at Guadalcanal was the result of teamwork, every Marine doing his job and looking out for each other. On the night I earned the Medal of Honor there were 33 men in my platoon. Every one of them was wounded doing his job ... I realize more than ever that when I put that high honor around my neck, it is there not to recall what I did so many years ago on one dark night, but what an entire Marine Division accomplished over four important months late in 1942."

Because of his actions and continued leadership, Paige was given a battlefield promotion to second lieutenant, and before retiring, held nearly every rank and assignment in the infantry battalion from private to commanding officer.

In addition to being one of 440 servicemembers awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty during World War II, Paige later

See HERO, page 11

Barracks rat: the Reilly Factor

Commentary by Cpl. Tara D. Smith

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

There is a resident at the barracks here who never shows up for field day formation, doesn't wear utilities and doesn't give a second thought to pros and cons. He lives like a scavenger, rummaging and pilfering from anyone who affords him the opportunity. He truly lives "the life of Reilly" and that is what I've named him. You see, Reilly is a rat.

I guess I've been lucky so far with my roommates. They have all been kind, courteous ... and human. I don't bear any ill will to rodents, per say. They are part of the ecological balance and environment.

However, one evening I stepped out of my room and from behind a garbage bag emerged Reilly. His dark, defiant eyes met mine and he looked at me as if to say, "You want a piece of me? Bring it chump." He then turned and scampered off into the dark night.

There are some serious considerations to having this kind of encroachment from big ugly rats. Rats carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans if the two come into close contact. The diseases include Weil's disease and murine typhus. They can also carry organisms such as salmonella and parasites like worms and nematodes. For those of us not current with the most recent edition of the "American Journal of Health and Medicine," those are all things that make people really sick. Sometimes the sickness rats spread are strong enough to kill people. Let's not forget the black plague, yes, rats had a hand, or claw rather, in that as well.

Rats are stronger than they look and can cause structure damage. According to the Broadland District Council rats can generate 7,000 pounds of pressure per square-inch when gnawing. Rodents can chew through electrical cords, aluminum, lead piping and even plastic. They have been known to cause water damage to structures by chewing through water mains and water pipes. Personally, I find my room somewhat cozy. I would like to keep it water damage and more importantly rodent free.

There is a simple solution to keeping Reilly and his furry little cohorts at bay. Leaving trash outside your door to take to the dumpster in the morning may be good initiative, but in this case it is also really bad judgment. Trash is what is attracting rats to the barracks. Rats have an acute sense of smell and can detect trash from a distance. They are also adept at climbing and can easily scale walls and stairs to get to any refuse left outdoors. Thus, it is imperative we place trash in the dumpster instead of leaving it outside our door.

It is also the responsibility of the duty noncommissioned officer to tour the barracks and correct someone who has left trash adrift. The first offense should warrant a verbal warning. However, repeat offenders should be logged into the duty binder and reported so the problem can be fixed.

It's not that I harbor malice for mice or their larger rat brethren. However, I do not wish to cohabitate with them. Moreover, it doesn't seem they really care to live with

See RAT, page 11

Heroes: Michael Jordan's dominance in the '90s

Commentary by
Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Heroes is a four part series focusing on my favorite athlete from a certain decade. This fourth and final part in the series focuses on basketball's greatest



Sgt. Joshua Stueve

player, Michael Jordan during the 1990s.

Growing up in the North Carolina countryside, Michael Jeffrey Jordan was given daily basketball beatings by his older brother, Larry. The hot summers spent on the make-shift basketball court in their family backyard were instrumental in building Jordan's competitiveness and winning desire. The backyard games, combined with being cut from his junior high basketball team, were the driving forces that made Jordan a fierce competitor.

In high school Jordan began to grow and the awkwardness that came with his height developed into amazing athletic ability.

Even though he grew up in North Carolina, he did not want to play college basketball there. He wanted to be a University of California at Los Angeles Bruin.

"The only school I was interested in out of high school was UCLA," Jordan said. "All they had to do was call."

But UCLA never recruited Jordan so he settled on North Carolina, and a coach named Dean Smith. As a freshman, Jordan hit the game winning shot to win the national championship for the Tar Heels against Patrick Ewing and the Georgetown Hoyas.

After Jordan's junior season, Coach Smith called the National Basketball Association to see how high Michael would go if he entered the 1984 draft. Houston said if they lost the first pick they would draft Jordan number two, with Akeem Olajuwon being the number one pick. Houston won the coin flip, drafted Olajuwon, and Portland took Sam Bowie. That left Jordan to Chicago. Thank God.

Jordan's rookie year was a showcase of his raw athletic ability. He averaged 28.2 points per game and was named NBA Rookie of the Year. Jordan's accolades also included being named second team All-NBA and first team All-Rookie.

Jordan's second year in the league was the answer to all of the critics who said Jordan was not as good as advertised and his talents would not surprise teams again.

During the first round of the playoffs against the Boston Celtics, Jordan delivered the greatest game of his career, against one of the best teams to ever take the court.

"I think he's God disguised as Michael Jordan," said Larry Bird. "He is the most awesome player in the NBA. Today in Boston Garden, on national TV, in the playoffs, he put on one of the greatest shows of all time. I couldn't believe someone could do that against the Boston Celtics."

What Jordan learned over the next five seasons is what really made him the great player he became. He learned that no matter how good he was he couldn't do it himself. He needed teammates who complemented his strengths and who had the same work ethic and desire to win. He found those qualities in guys like Pippen, Paxson, Grant, Per-

due, Rodman and countless others that filled the rosters of the Bulls through their six championship runs.

Jordan stunned the basketball world in 1993 with the first of his three retirements. The world asked why Jordan would leave the game when he was the best player in the league, and why after the Bulls had just won their third world championship – that was exactly Jordan's reason for leaving.

You see, his entire life is driven by accomplishing goals that no one thought he could. In basketball Jordan achieved everything a player could hope for; NCAA champion, NBA Rookie of the Year, two-time slam-dunk champion, 13-time All-Star, six-time world champion, 10-time scoring champion, defensive player of the year, five-time regular season most valuable player, six-time Finals MVP, All-NBA first team, and two

Olympic gold medals. I mean really, what else was there for Jordan to accomplish? Baseball.

Jordan always loved baseball and was a frequent guest of the Chicago White Sox at their home games. Jordan signed as a free agent with the White Sox on Feb. 7, 1994, and played the '94 season in class AA with the Birmingham Barons. Jordan hit only .202 on the season but did have some bright spots, as he stole 30 bases and drove in more than 50 runs.

Jordan's hunger for competition would not allow him to rest and in the spring of '95 he made his long awaited return to basketball. His press release simply stated, "I'm back."

Jordan played only 17 regular season games before the Bulls headed off to the playoffs against the Orlando Magic. The

Magic eliminated the Bulls that year. During the entire off-season Jordan pushed himself harder than he ever had. He was determined to come back next year in the best basketball shape of his life. All Jordan's hard work paid off the following year when the Bulls won a NBA record of 72 games.

The next three years would produce three more championships for Jordan and he would put the world through another retirement and another comeback, this time with the Washington Wizards.

During his second and final season with the Wizards, the 40-year-old Jordan averaged 20 points per game and six rebounds. The comeback with the Wizards was another classic case of Jordan needing to fill his empty competitive tank.

See JORDAN, page 11

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ♦ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ♦ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ♦ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ♦ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday
- ♦ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ♦ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ♦ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ♦ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10: 45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ♦ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

'Flying Leatherneck' hosts Toys for Tots golf tourney

The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation is hosting the Toys for Tots team scramble golf tournament Dec. 10 at the Miramar Memorial Golf Course.

The tournament features celebrity guest player R. Lee Ermey, star of "Full Metal Jacket" and "Mail Call." There will also be a Toys for Tots toy collection, continental breakfast and prizes.

Limited to the first 144 paid players, the tournament is open to all active duty, retired,

reserve and Department of Defense personnel, as well as civilians and guests.

Fees begin at \$35, with an unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more for E-5 and below and includes golf fee, cart, range balls, beverages and appetizers.

Awards will be given for shots closest to the hole and longest drive.

Cut-off date for registration is 3 p.m., Dec. 5.

For more information on the golf tournament or how you can donate for Toys for Tots, call Steve Mayian at 693-1723, or visit www.mccsmiramar.com/PDFs/TFT_2003.pdf.



Free movies from MCCS

Friday	Sunday
Once Upon a time in Mexico (R) 4:30 p.m.	Secondhand Lions (PG) 1:00 p.m.
Cold Creek Manor (R) 6:30 p.m.	Once Upon a Time in Mexico (R) 6:30 p.m.
Underworld (R) 8:45 p.m.	

Saturday	Wednesday
School of Rock (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.	The Rundown (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
Duplex (PG-13) 8:45 p.m.	

The Station Theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby digital surround sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

'Click It or Ticket' begins

The two-week seat belt enforcement campaign "Click It or Ticket" runs until Nov. 30 and is based on a proven public health model to increase belt use through high visibility enforcement.

During the national campaign, police officers will intensify enforcement of child passenger safety laws, seat belt laws and impaired driving laws.

Drivers failing to ensure their passengers and themselves are buckled-up, will be ticketed according to the law.

Gonzales Hall serves up Thanksgiving Day meal

Miramar will celebrate Thanksgiving Day and Gonzales Hall will serve a special Thanksgiving Day meal from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for servicemembers and their depen-

dents. In addition to civilian employees of Miramar, retired military and their families are also invited to enjoy the holiday feast.

Dinner will include roast turkey, baked ham, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, corn bread dressing, buttered peas with mushrooms, buttered corn, brown gravy, turkey gravy, turkey rice soup, pineapple sauce, cranberry sauce, apple pie, pumpkin pie, dinner rolls and assorted ice cream.

Meal rates are \$5.25 for a full meal and \$4.25 for all family members of E-4s and below.

For more information, call 577-4185 or 577-6165.

**Carelessness
is dangerous.**

JFK,
continued from page 5
and other songs. As the two walked along, the president asked Glenn what he normally does when they play the “Marines Hymn” and in a demonstration of consideration, respect and thoughtfulness, Kennedy stopped and stood motionless at the position of attention with his Marine for the duration of the hymn.

On another occasion, Kennedy visited the Marine Corps Barracks at 8th and I in July 1962 – enjoying an evening parade in his honor – and was the first president to do so since John Adams. With the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. David M. Shoup, at his side, Kennedy received formal military honors from the very Marines who would one day honor him again for the last time.

Kennedy paid tribute to his Marines again June 6, 1963 when he visited the Marines, Sailors and recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego where he was greeted by a 21-gun salute. No doubt many were proud to have the opportunity to meet their commander in chief, but few likely expected that he would be killed before the end of the year.

Media coverage and recognition of the

anniversary of the Kennedy assassination is likely to be intense, characterized by conspiracy and nostalgia. Less predictably, the relationship between Kennedy and his Marines may not receive the journalistic attention that other Kennedy assassination stories undoubtedly will.

The world will always remember the footage of JFK’s son John, giving a child’s salute as his father’s flag-draped casket passed by, but the Marines were also given a final opportunity to salute their leader in appreciation of their special bond.

As recalled by Col. Miller, when the president’s body was flown to Andrews Air Force Base to be taken to Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md. for autopsy late in the night following the assassination, the 8th and I Marines at the White House rendered their salute as the hearse came through the gate. Following Mrs. Kennedy’s request, a few days later when the horse-drawn gun carriage carrying the fallen president reached the White House grounds during the state funeral, a polished drill platoon of Marines escorted their fallen leader with superb discipline.

With the death of Kennedy in November 1963, the special relationship between JFK, his Marines and the evolving Marine

Corps came to an end. A black moment in that “extraordinary time” delivered a successor to power in America and with that, an escalated conflict in Southeast Asia where a revitalized evolved Marine Corps would fight with distinction in our longest war.

RAT,
continued from page 8
me. If we are attentive to the upkeep of our surroundings, then the visitors we receive will be the kind who don’t stare us down with their beady eyes or wag their pink tails in defiance.

HERO,
continued from page 8
wrote the book, “A Marine Named Mitch” and served as the model for the G.I. Joe Marine Doll.

The legacy Paige leaves behind is more than a battlefield story of survival. It is one of faith in what makes America ‘the land of the free and home of the brave.’

“It is the moral obligation of every American to encourage our youth to hold high the torch of freedom and justice,” said Paige. “We must not only live our lives according to the principle that freedom

under God is man’s destiny, but its every American’s obligation to defend that freedom unto death with the courage of free men. This is every American’s responsibility – man, woman, and child.”

JORDAN,
continued from page 9
Jordan took the Wizards from being one of the worst teams in the league to a respectable .500 team during his two years there, but felt he couldn’t persuade his teammates to adopt the fierce competitive nature and thirst for winning that he had.

Jordan retired from the NBA after his final game of the 2002-2003 season, and with him he took the spirit of the game. Sure, there will be other great players, but the league will never know another player like Jordan. He was a man who captivated the American public and became the most recognizable athlete in the world. A man who changed the way athletes are marketed, and in the process he carried companies on his back that without him might not exist today.

Through all his successes in life Jordan has never let himself become complacent.

“I listened,” said Jordan. “I was aware of my success, but I never stopped trying to get better.”